

ARCHITECTS SIGNING THEIR DEEDS.

Sir,—I humbly beg leave to write you a few lines with regard to architects inscribing their names on their works, lately referred to in *THE BUILDER*. Melrose Abbey having been likewise noticed more than once in the same journal, I take the liberty of forwarding (and which I hope will not be unacceptable to you), a copy of an inscription which an old mason pointed out to me in the interior of the abbey. I think it is on a door-head which leads up to the belfry on the south front, but I am not certain, as it is five years since I saw it:—

I, John Murdo, sometime called was I;
Born in Paris certainlye,
And had in charge the mason works
Of Sancte Androes, the High Kirke:
Pray to God and Mary balth
To keepe this holy Kirke free skaithe.

I am, Sir, &c., ADAM PATTERSON.
Brockhamgreen, 16th Dec., 1845.

OPENING MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE.

On the 17th inst. B. Bond Cabbell, Esq., F.R.S., one of the vice-presidents, took the chair, and an address from the council was read by the secretary. The council congratulated the society on the auspicious commencement of their ninety-second session. During the recess the society had undergone a complete reorganization, and the new system of management proposed by the council had been almost unanimously confirmed by two general meetings, so that the society being thus renewed in youth, would, it was anticipated, display all the vigour and energy of a new institution, combined with the stability and influence of an old one.

It was the intention of the council to add largely this year to the value and number of the premiums. In the fine arts, the mechanical arts, the manufactures, agriculture, and commerce of the country, rapid improvements were in progress, which it had been the peculiar province of this society for nearly a century to encourage and direct, and in which nearly 100,000*l.* had already been expended by it with great public advantage. In the present session many valuable subjects were about to be offered for competition by premiums; and so large a number of important papers were now coming forward for notice, that the council believed the auspices under which this session commenced were unusually bright, and they therefore had to congratulate the members upon the improved prospects of the society.

The first communication read to the society was a paper on certain improvements in constructing the locomotive engines and permanent way of railways, with reference to the question of wide and narrow gauge, by Mr. J. G. Bodmer, formerly of Manchester, now of London.

In this paper the author examines the question of the relative merits of wide and narrow gauge; he ascertains that the question is not one either of relative safety or danger, but that it resolves itself ultimately into this inquiry:—which gauge will admit of the most perfect means for obtaining high velocities with greater regularity and economy? At present, he admits, the broad gauge has the advantage in more powerful and speedy engines. But he then proceeded to shew that by placing the cylinders outside, and by increasing the fire box and flue surface in the manner he proposes, and by adopting the principle of compensation as in his double piston locomotives, high velocities may be obtained with security, safety, and advantage. In short, that as powerful an engine in every way may be placed on the narrow gauge as on the wide one, and one equally well adapted to high velocities. He then went on to shew how the chief limit to increase of power, and the corresponding increase of weight in locomotive engines, consist not so much in the construction of the engines as in obtaining a permanent way, suitable for the support of such enormous loads. By these loads travelling at high velocities, concussion is produced, which derange the permanent way, and are at present the chief sources of danger and cost, and the chief limit to the speed. He approves of the tri-

angular sleeper originally invented by Reynolds, and he proposes to use a modification of that on a larger scale as a longitudinal bearing. He also proposes that the breadth of the rail should be so increased as to diminish the continual attrition so destructive to wheels, and procure greater durability. In the conclusion of the paper he suggests that an experimental railway ought to be constructed, either at the expense of the Government or of the joint railways, for ascertaining the best means for giving the increased velocity, which the public are beginning to demand, in the best manner. The paper gave rise to a long discussion, which elicited the opinions of engineers and scientific men present, on the merits of Mr. Bodmer's plan. The next paper read was a sequel to the former, by the same author, on improved crank axles and axle boxes, by which greater security and economy are obtained in railway trains running at high velocities.

CITY ANTIQUITIES.

MR. TITE V. MR. ROACH SMITH.

Sir,—It is, doubtless, much more convenient and easy to Mr. Tite to *assert* and *re-assert*, and to make a *brief* and *final* reply, than to substantiate and prove the truth of the statements he has made relative to my researches. If he imagine his charges are proved, or are capable of being proved, either by his own efforts to adduce facts to give a colouring to his assertions, or by any admission made by me, I suspect he is the only individual who has carefully read the last four numbers of *THE BUILDER*, and arrived at such a strange conclusion.

He has not only totally failed in making out a shadow of a case to justify his conduct, but he has himself established, by most glaring and serious mistakes in dates, and in the consecutive occurrence of particular circumstances, his ignorance of the real state of the very matter in question. I not only said from the first that his charges were false, but I maintain that his own statements prove them to be so; and, had I not believed that he had been imposed upon, and had too easily lent his ear to idle and silly tales, I should have termed his charges *willfully* false.

If Mr. Tite had given me an opportunity of meeting his accusations at the meeting of the Institute of British Architects, or had had the manliness to attend the meeting of the British Archaeological Association to which he and six of his friends had been invited to hear my exposition of the monstrous absurdity of his assertions, and when, had they been true, he could easily have substantiated their veracity,—had he found it suitable to him to have attended, he would have heard some curious instances of the manner in which valuable antiquities have often been collected far from the place at which they had been discovered. Mr. Tite's researches, I suspect, have not led him to ramble far from the site of the new Royal Exchange, or he would not disbelieve, or affect to disbelieve, the fact of such objects being often found many miles from the site of their exhumation, and often after the lapse of considerable time. A friend of mine, living in the suburbs of the metropolis, collected upwards of four hundred Roman coins, which had been deposited close to his house in dirt and gravel brought from London. Will Mr. Tite venture to say, that the industry and intelligence of this gentleman, which saved from utter destruction objects of interest to science and history, "would have afforded no justification for not restoring the articles so found to the proper authorities." The antiquities I obtained, under almost similar circumstances, were not procured by the agency of Mr. Tite's servants, or those of the Gresham committee, although Mr. Tite may find it needful to bolster up his case by the invention of such notions in order to condemn them as my "admissions." In short, Mr. Tite has propagated stories which I have exposed to the world as unfounded in truth; and he now tries, instead of honestly confessing his error, or taking some steps to prove his assertions, to concoct something agreeable to himself, and calls it my "admission!"

Mr. Tite still disputes my right to the leaden medalet, and talks about the "principle of property." Why does he not induce his patrons to institute an action at law for its re-

covery? Simply because he is well aware that the Joint Gresham Committee never possessed and never had any right to it. It became my legal property when it was presented to me by the legal owner, before, I think, Mr. Tite had any connection with the Royal Exchange, or any particular prospect of being appointed architect to the new edifice. It became both legally and morally mine, when from a dirty bit of worthless lead I created it an object of interest to the antiquary, and of envy to the illiberal and narrow-minded.

I beg leave to explain my meaning of the term "colleagues," which Mr. Tite seizes upon in order to make allusion to the British Archaeological Association. In his speech to the Institute of British Architects, Mr. Tite laid strong stress upon the activity of "collectors," who secured all the city antiquities for their own collections, to the great mortification of "city authorities." The only persons who have collected, that is to say, who have understood and preserved the precious remains of antiquity, which for many long years, "city authorities" (proper authorities Mr. Tite terms them) have regarded as "rubble and rubbish," are Messrs. Kempe, Gwilt, Newman, Chaffers, and Price, and these must be (including myself), the "collectors" Mr. Tite referred to. If not, who are they? These gentlemen I feel proud in calling "my colleagues." Our labours are partly before the public. If health and leisure permit, I hope before long to render such a complete account of our stewardship, as will not be discredit to our exertions to preserve the city antiquities from the vandalism of committees, and the whole tribe of "city authorities," and from general profound ignorance and indifference. This account will include a full, and chronological detail of circumstances connected with the excavations, made on the site of the Royal Exchange, the length of which, even were not your patience exhausted, would be an objection, perhaps, to its insertion in your pages on the present occasion.—I am, Sir, &c.,

C. ROACH SMITH.

Liverpool-street, City, Dec. 20th.

CAMBRIDGE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

The committee of this society have just issued a report of the present state of its operations and prospects. From it we learn that they have appointed A. J. B. Hope, Esq., M.P., M.A., Trinity College, to be chairman; the Rev. F. W. Wills, M.A., King's College, to be treasurer; and the Rev. B. Webb, M.A., the Rev. J. M. Neale, M.A., of Trinity College, and Mr. F. A. Paley, M.A., of St. John's College, to be secretaries.

Among the presents received by the society, special mention is made of some original drawings and measurements of St. Helen, Bishopsgate, by Mr. J. B. Gardiner; and some interesting rubbings of brasses, lately executed by the Messrs. Waller. Reference is also made to the following grants voted by the committee: towards the restoration of the church of St. John, Croston-Kerriell, Lincoln; of the Norman Tower at Bury St. Edmund's; and towards the re-building of the Church of St. James, Woolthorpe, Lincolnshire. Other applications have been refused, the works not having appeared satisfactory, or the cases not being of sufficient urgency. A grant has also been made to encourage the publication of a beautiful series of drawings of the First Pointed Chancel of St. Leonard, Hythe.

The *Cambridge Advertiser* says:—"We are authorized to state that Mr. Scott Nesmyth Stokes, B.A., scholar of Trinity College, author of the 'Christian Calendar,' formerly one of the secretaries to the Cambridge Camden Society, and one of the editors of the 'Ecclesiologist,' made a public profession of faith in the Roman Catholic cathedral of St. Chad, Birmingham, on Sunday last, after High Mass. It was this gentleman who gave to the church of the Holy Sepulchre the stone altar which occasioned so much litigation."

PARKS IN LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Yates of Liverpool has given 50,000*l.* for the establishment of public parks in that town. When he appeared at the recent Anti-Corn-Law meeting, he was received with volleys of cheers.